

## Match Report

Toulouse CC v CC Noé Gascogne

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2007

A warm and breezy start to the final home league match against the team 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league and clearly talented with the best Gascony could offer. Would there be any canards today?

Skippy proved not to be quite the tosser we all thought he was and Noé asked Toulouse to bat on a wicket where, under the Flicx, the grass was growing through and showing more tufts than Andy Gordon's helmet on match day.

Giving youth a chance to shine Skippy took the brave decision to send in "The Rabi" (*How did you get that name Mat?*) and Baggie Rich. The bowling early on was a bit mixed, one over had 5 wides, but it was still good enough to tear into the early order. Rich fell on 6 to a catch that led to a not so unusual front end mini collapse with Shady, Presidente, and Jimmy and Mathieu each all falling for singles figure scores (*how come I feel I've written something like this before?*). However, the ever improving Mathieu's 8 showed signs of increasing confidence and an eye for the ball, staying in for over 9 overs (just as instructed).

51-5, and thankfully Skippy (37, runs not age) and Delboy (28, runs not inside leg) steadied the ship picking off some fine boundaries and doubling the score. Skippy scored a 4 off the Noé fielding, but in stitches not runs, with a brave stop that saw an early departure to A&E for one of the opposition – thanks Kate for acting as nurse (any chance of popping on the uniform?). Then Skippy fell to an "LBW" from a right arm around the wicket delivery :-/

Beefy's swift 8 (runs, not inches) made way for the Bishop (*Chris R – or any other nickname you wish Chris?*) to enter the fray with a swashbuckling 27, including a marvellous 6 off their quickie, boosting the score to a respectable amount. Christoph's 5 (not out) and a fantastic effort by Extras (46) made us believe that if we could field in the same manner as Brooksies wallet (tight, show them no daylight...etc) then we might have a sniff. 172 all out.

A much improved effort with tea – thanks everyone, just as well as El Presidente was starving.

Christoph and Borthers opened up with a great spell seeing only 8 runs come off the first 4 overs before Christoph nabbed 2 quick wicket's. Brooksie came on and Arun picked off the loose balls handsomely and looked un-get-out-able. This indeed proved to be the case when Delboy sent the middle stump hurtling towards Shady with pace only to see a no-ball given. Next ball, plum LBW (*in my view*) – not out.

Questioning each wicket started to play a part in this match for the away side and whilst wickets continued to fall so runs were being scored. Skippy and Delboy picked off a few and gave away very little and even the El Presidente picked one off. The game turned on the dismissal of the opener Arun (perhaps for the third time!) who after enjoying Beefy's buffet bowling pushed a catch to the diving Christophe at short mid-wicket. But it was Christoph 3-27 and Skipp's 2-2 which were the pick of the bowling.

The finish came with Borthers, who almost bowled a 9<sup>th</sup> over, catching a high and deep ball in front of the jeering Noé team/supporters before exchanging a few words of encouragement to them. A fitness test on a bruised left foot is required after his ball kicking celebration.

Probably our best performance so far – a great team effort. In fact a great game only spoiled a bit by some oik on a scrambling bike and another scramble to get out of the ground before a less pleasant than normal lock-in.

A special thanks to Borthers for accepting the challenge to do the match report and then pitching in the "too busy". Get yourself sorted Borthers or you'll end up with a worse reputation than Brooksie!

Thanks to the ever faithful Wags for helping out with tea and Dawn for doing some Engineering Design activity on behalf of Nasher.

*Result:*

Toulouse (172 all out) beat CC Noé Gascogne, 156-9 (10 players), by 16 runs